

Sean Patrick O'Donnell is the Chief Criminal Judge in King County Superior Court located in Seattle, Washington. Judge O'Donnell recently completed his term as President of the Superior Court Judges' Association, a statewide organization representing the 192 trial judges across Washington.

Judge O'Donnell attended Georgetown University and Seattle University School of Law. Before being elected to the bench in 2013, Judge O'Donnell was as a senior deputy prosecuting attorney for King County. He was a member of the 'Green River Task Force,' which oversaw the investigation and prosecution of serial killer Gary L. Ridgway. Judge O'Donnell also served as a special assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington in the Terrorism and Violent Crimes Unit.

While a prosecutor, Judge O'Donnell successfully tried the state's first human trafficking case and first commercial sexual abuse of a minor case. He completed rotations on the Special Assault Unit and was a member of the 'Most Dangerous Offenders Project,' a specialized group of prosecutors responsible for all homicide cases within the county. Judge O'Donnell was also a Chief Trainer for the National Association of Attorneys General for human trafficking.

Since joining the bench, Judge O'Donnell has served rotations on the court's family law, civil and criminal dockets. He has presided over complex civil cases involving insurance bad faith claims, medical malpractice claims, wrongful death claims, and claims involving the theft of corporate trade secrets. Judge O'Donnell serves on the Court's core leadership committees, including the budget, personnel and executive committees.

During his term as president of the Superior Court Judge's Association, Judge O'Donnell focused on improvements to courthouse security and worked to reform the Association's by-laws. He currently co-chairs two statewide task forces, one which focuses on securing adequate funding for interpreter services and another that is analyzing Washington's bail practices.

Judge O'Donnell serves as the chair for the School Commission at St. Joseph School in Seattle and is a Trustee for the Lakeside School. He has been a member of the Green River Community College Criminal Justice Advisory Board and an adjunct faculty member at Seattle University School of Law. Judge O'Donnell is also a member of the Rainier Scholars' Resource Council.

He lives with his wife and their two school-aged children in Seattle.